

SIG Overview
July 18 - 10, 2010 *Helena, MT* 

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The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

## Our Challenges

- We know our communities have survived tough challenges that few other Montanans have faced
- Everyone suffers in a school system that doesn't work for the kids or the adults
- Our resiliency & strength keeps us going



## **Our Shared Vision**

 Schools should be healthy, safe environments where kids and adults have the opportunity to thrive

 We all want our kids to get a great education → choices in life

We know we can't do it alone



## The Opportunity is NOW

- We are at an unique crossroads that we cannot afford to let slip through our fingers
- Denise Juneau as our State
   Superintendent, national priorities & funding, and the momentum we see from school board trustees, educators, parents, and community members -- the time to act is now



## **Unprecedented Collaboration**

- Nothing like this has ever been done in Montana before
- This isn't a typical federal grant where we get money and cross our fingers in hope that it works
- We're building a collaboration to bring in state-of-the-art practices, resources,
   & expertise so our kids get the education they deserve



## Our work will be known

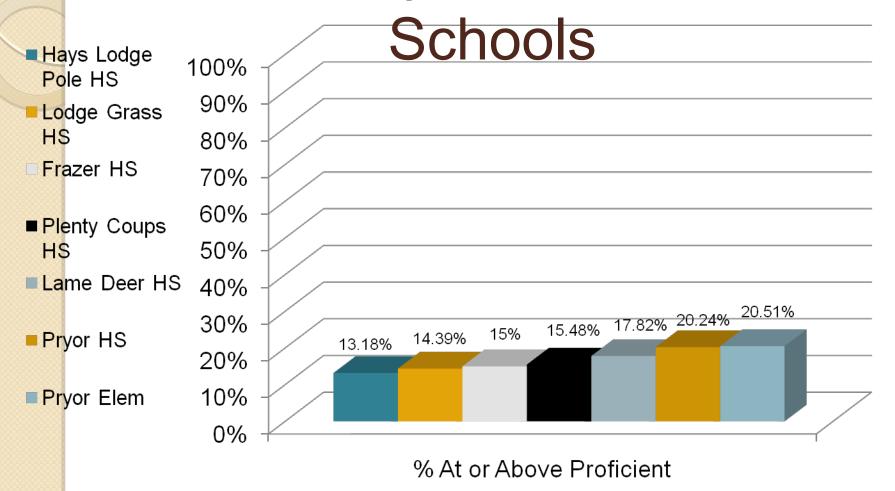
- Our hard work, creativity, and optimism will yield wisdom and important lessons that will benefit Indian schools & communities across the country
- Working together, we truly will create Schools of Promise in Montana







## School Improvement Grant





opi.mt.gov

## SIG Goal

- To send a clear message, we need to work together to make each school look and feel different on the first day of school in the fall
- Develop relationships with communities, organizations, and all stakeholders to focus on academic achievement and continuous progress

## Superintendent Denise Juneau





## Our Core Values:

- Transparency
- Collaboration
- Vision
- Capacity Building



# In order to participate in SIG, eligible schools had to:

- (1)Sign an Implementation Agreement to clarify main components of SIG requirements
- (2) Agree to OPI's role in grant
- (3)Sign a Memorandum of Agreement to allow activities not currently allowed in local Collective Bargaining Agreement
- (4) Complete these tasks by early June



# 4 out of 5 eligible schools completed these tasks and now:

- (1)Formed a team of 12: 4 teachers, 2 admin, 2 trustees, 2 students, 2 community members (varies / district)
- (2)Met in June in Great Falls to begin teamwork & overview of District Action Plan
- (3) Continue to work locally on District Action Plan with OPI school coach facilitation



## SIG Requirements

- All the requirements must be in the Implementation Agreement and addressed in the District Action Plans
- OPI reviewed them with each district's Board and local union representatives this spring
- We seek to have the implementation of the requirements be transparent, collaborative, full of shared vision, and helpful in building the capacity of each school and community

## **Transformation Model Overview**

### Teachers and Leaders

- Replace principal
- Implement new evaluation system
  - Developed with staff
  - Uses student growth as a significant factor
- Identify and reward staff who are increasing student outcomes; support and then remove those who are not
- Implement strategies to recruit, place and retain staff

## Instructional and Support Strategies

- Select and implement an instructional model based on student needs
- Provide jobembedded professional development designed to build capacity and support staff
- Ensure continuous use of data to inform and differentiate instruction

### Time and Support

- Provide increased learning time
  - Staff and students
- Provide ongoing mechanism for community and family engagement
- Partner to provide social-emotional and communityoriented services and supports

#### Governance

- Provide sufficient operating flexibility to implement reform
- Ensure ongoing technical assistance



## SIG Requirements

- OPI staff in schools, working with district on:
  - team building
  - school improvement
  - teacher professional development
  - collecting & analyzing data
  - assessment
  - student involvement
  - community engagement & involvement
- Help district to FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS: this effort is much more than programs: it's systemwide thinking & doing!



## SIG Requirements

- Focus on improving effective instruction to quickly and meaningfully bring students' math and literacy skills up to grade level
- Schools are human places working together to improve the well being of the students and adults in the schools: mental health, trust

## Summer Work

- Develop District Action Plans
- Provide curriculum training workshops
- Work with MBI coaches on student handbooks
- Revise schedule of courses
- Participate in community engagement gatherings (1 per community)
- Plan for PIR days prior to new school year
- Open new school year celebration



# Our goal

- The school looks & feels different this fall
- Using values of Transparency,
   Collaboration, Vision & Capacity Building,
   communities & schools will be stronger as a result of our work

## We are the ones we've been waiting for



